



# Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce Report

## Overview of the Taskforce, the Report to Government and consultation process

The Western Australian Government has released the Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce's Report to Government for public comment. The consultation process seeks to obtain community, industry and other stakeholder inputs into the report.

### About the Taskforce

The Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce was formed in 2009. It comprises:

- Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Chair) *(previously the Department of State Development)*
- Department of Health
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage *(previously the Department of Planning)*
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation *(previously the Department of Environment Regulation and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority)*
- Department of Transport
- Pilbara Development Commission
- LandCorp
- Town of Port Hedland
- Port Hedland Industries Council
- BHP
- Fortescue Metals Group
- Roy Hill Holdings
- Atlas Iron

### The work of the Taskforce

Port Hedland is the largest bulk handling port in the world, and a major contributor to the Western Australian and Australian economies.

The town and port have developed in close proximity, in an era before planning principles on the separation of industrial and residential activity were widely used.

In 2009, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) raised concerns about the possible impact of dust on the health of Port Hedland residents.

In response, the Western Australian Government established the Taskforce to co-ordinate and plan for dust management in the town.

The Taskforce produced the Port Hedland Air Quality and Noise Management Plan (2010), which included interim measures to limit exposure to dust by groups considered most at risk of health effects.

The 2010 Taskforce Plan included recommendations for further work on identifying dust levels and sources across Port Hedland and on the health effects of the types of dust found in Port Hedland.

The Port Hedland Industries Council established an air quality monitoring network in the Town, and the Department of Health conducted a Health Risk Assessment, which was published in February 2016 (Port Hedland Air Quality Health Risk Assessment for Particulate Matter).

### The report and recommendations:

In August 2016, the Taskforce submitted a Report to Government with further recommendations for managing dust in Port Hedland.

The Taskforce Report explains the background to dust issues in Port Hedland, summarises the findings of the Health Risk Assessment, air quality monitoring and modelling, and details work currently underway by industry and regulators to mitigate dust issues.

It then sets out a series of recommendations for Government to consider.

The recommendations seek to achieve the Health Risk Assessment objective of limiting the population exposed to relatively high dust levels in a way that takes community and industry interests into consideration.

The main recommendations are:

- Exporters should continue to be required to reduce the dust emissions arising from port activities, and should be subject to more stringent risk-based regulation aimed at reducing the number of days when standards are exceeded.

- A Special Control Area should apply over the West End of Port Hedland, aimed at preventing further residential population growth west of Taplin Street, and limiting sensitive uses between Taplin and McGregor Streets.
- The State Government and the Town of Port Hedland should work with the community to improve Port Hedland's amenity, including identifying and addressing dust sources other than the port.

**The full Taskforce Report can be viewed on the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation's (JTSI) website: [www.jtsi.wa.gov.au/porthedlanddust](http://www.jtsi.wa.gov.au/porthedlanddust)**

## What happens next?

The State Government is seeking the views of interested parties in order to inform its response to the report and recommendations. The Government is not committed to any of the Report's recommendations. It will finalise its response to the Report after considering the submissions received.

Submissions should be lodged with JTSI by **Friday, 6 October 2017**. Contact details are available at the end of this fact sheet.

A community information session will be held in Port Hedland during the consultation period. This will be advertised in the North West Telegraph and on the Town of Port Hedland's Facebook page.

## Find out more:

Information about the Taskforce report and the consultation process, and more detailed factsheets are available at: [www.jtsi.wa.gov.au/porthedlanddust](http://www.jtsi.wa.gov.au/porthedlanddust)

Alternatively, you can call JTSI on (08) 9222 0555

## Have your say:

Please send all comments to:  
[porthedlanddust@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:porthedlanddust@jtsi.wa.gov.au)

OR

**Port Hedland Dust Management Taskforce**  
**Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation**  
**Level 6, 1 Adelaide Terrace**  
**East Perth WA 6004**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
**6 OCTOBER 2017**

**All submissions received will be published on the Department's website, unless confidentiality is requested.**